

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the final Office Action of August 20, 2007 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-15, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,112,174 to Wakisaka (hereinafter Wakisaka) in view of U.S. Patent 6,064,961 to Hanson (hereinafter Hanson). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakisaka in view of Hanson, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,714,905 to Chang, *et al.* (hereinafter Chang). Claims 6 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakisaka in view of Hanson, and further in view of "VoiceXML", Vol. 2, Issue 7 to Thomson (hereinafter Thomson).

Amendments to the Claims

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections in the Office Action, Applicants nonetheless have amended the claims in order to expedite prosecution of the present application by further emphasizing certain aspects of the claims. Applicants respectfully assert, however, that the claim amendments presented are not intended as, and should not be interpreted as, the surrender of any subject matter. Applicants are not conceding by these amendments that any previously submitted claims are unpatentable over the references of record. Applicants' present claim amendments are submitted only for purposes of facilitating expeditious prosecution of the present Application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue any previously submitted claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

In this response, Applicants have amended the claims to improve readability and to further emphasize certain aspects of the claims. In particular, independent Claims 1,

10, 11, and 19 have been amended to recite limitations further describing a prompt, a pre-built grammar, a new option, and the relationship between the call-flow and the application,. Additionally, dependent Claims 2, 4, 5, 9, 12, 14, 15, 18, and 20, have been amended to maintain consistency among the claims or to improve readability of the claims. All amendments are fully supported throughout the Specification, as discussed below. No new subject matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Aspects of the Claims

Prior to discussing the cited references, it may be useful to discuss certain aspects of the claims. The claims recite systems and methods for creating a speech recognition callflow for an application. The claims, as typified by Claim 1, can include the step of placing a symbolic representation of a prompt into a workspace of a graphical user interface (GUI) for creating the speech recognition callflow for the application. (See, e.g., para. [0006]). The prompts are used during execution of the application to issue requests to a user provide a value for a variable. For example, a prompt can be, as shown in FIG. 3B, a query to the user. Accordingly, the placement of the prompt in the workspace results in instructions in the application being generated to provide a query for the user. (See, e.g., para. [0016], [0018], [0019]).

The claims can also include attaching, within the callflow workspace, a pre-built grammar and/or a user-entered individual new options to the representation of the prompt. The act of attaching any grammar to a prompt then can result in the generation of instructions in the application to process speech inputs responsive to the query using the attached grammars. (See, e.g., para. [0016], [0017]). In the claims, a pre-built grammar can include phrases associated with valid entries for a variable associated with a prompt that it is attached to. Similarly, new options, as recited in the claims, can include a phrase associated with a valid entry for a variable. (See, e.g., para. [0016]). If other

prompts are needed, the steps of placing and attaching can then be repeated until the speech recognition callflow has been completed. (See, e.g., para. [0018]).

The Claims Define Over the Cited References

As previously noted, independent Claims 1, 11, and 19 were rejected as being unpatentable over Wakisaka in view of Hanson. Independent Claim 10 was rejected as also being unpatentable over Wakisaka in view of Hanson, in further view of Chang. Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that the claims define over Wakisaka and Hanson, alone or in combination with any other reference of record.

First, Wakisaka fails to teach a method for *creating* a speech recognition callflow. Although, Figures 1 and 4 of Wakisaka disclose the components of a system that might use the claimed callflow, these figures do not disclose a flowchart depicting how even one instance of an interaction between a user and a system might occur. That is, nowhere in Figures 1 or 4 is it disclosed how the system would query the user for an input or how the system will process a particular input associated with the query. In contrast, the claims, explicitly recite the limitations of creating a callflow for an application, where the prompts in the callflow define queries for user input and the attached grammar define how the user inputs are to be processed.

Second, Wakisaka fails to disclose the step of *placing a prompt into a workspace* for the speech recognition callflow. In the Office Action, it is asserted that this step is equivalent to "inputted speech via microphone," as disclosed in Wakisaka. However, Applicants respectfully submit that it would be obvious to anyone of ordinary skill in the art that programming prompts into a callflow for an application is clearly not equivalent to the application receiving speech input. Although Applicants are clearly puzzled by this statement in the Office Action in view of the Specification, Applicants have nonetheless amended the claims to improve readability and limit further misunderstandings. In particular, the claims now explicitly recite that the act of placing a

prompt into a workspace causes instructions to be generated for the application to present a query to the user. Accordingly, the act of placing a prompt is separate and distinct from any act of providing a speech input.

Third, Wakasaki fails to disclose using pre-built grammars and new option grammars in generating a callflow, where the grammars and options define valid values for a variable. Wakisaka only discloses that the dictionaries used are simple lists of items for which the lists have been subdivided so as to not strain the resources of the embedded systems in which they are used. For example, as disclosed in the Abstract of Wakisaka:

A speech recognition system realizing large-vocabulary speech recognition at a low cost without deteriorating the rate of recognition and a recognition speed performance is provided with a dictionary change-over section for making a change-over between dictionaries to be subjected to speech recognition in accordance with dictionary change-over information, a first memory for storing a plurality of dictionaries, a second memory for storing one dictionary made an object of recognition, and a speech recognition section for performing a speech recognition processing, whereby speech recognition is performed while making a change-over between dictionaries, as required. For example, in a car navigation speech recognition system, the change-over between dictionaries is made for each area in accordance with position information.

Therefore, Applicants submit that Wakisaka does not disclose any technique for graphical speech recognition callflow development. Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the dictionaries disclosed by Wakisaka are clearly not equivalent to finite state grammars, unlike the pre-built grammars recited in the claims. Wakisaka only discloses solving the problem of managing large lists of items for speech recognition in devices with highly constrained memories, and has addressed that by describing a dictionary change-over method, not by providing a series of separate finite state grammars that can be used to validate entries. For example, in Col. 7, Lines 13-19, Wakisaka only discloses the conditions under which a dictionary switch will occur in his invention. The dictionary switch in Wakisaka is dynamic based on the speech input

received from the user (i.e., a run-time process). In contrast, the claims, explicitly recite the limitation that the pre-built grammars and options are used to define grammars for a prompt in the callflow, grammars that include phrases that will be valid values for a variable during execution of an application. (i.e., a development process).

In the Office Action, it is acknowledged that Wakisaka fails to disclose "symbolic representation of a prompt" and the repetition of the placing and attaching steps. However, the Office Action asserts that such features are disclosed in Hanson. Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion.

Hanson discloses a method and program for displaying text in a proofreader associated with a speech recognition application. That is, Hanson discloses the serial presentation of words from a source text, such as a speech or optical recognition engine, to a proofreader window. Applicants respectfully submit that the text in the Office Action was prepared based on the reasoning that the claims in the present Application are directed to method that includes the steps of actually performing a speech recognition. Applicants respectfully submit that such reasoning is incorrect. As previously noted, the claims are directed to a method and system for generating a callflow for an application, not for executing the application. The flawed reasoning in the Office Action is evidenced by the statement in the Office Action "the combined teaching of Wakisaka and Hanson would have rendered obvious speech recognition where a user is prompted with a symbolic prompt in a graphical user interface to select information and grammar having the speech recognition sequence repeat until the speech recognition is done".

The claims do not recite a multimodal user interface for combining simultaneous speech recognition and GUI presentation. Rather, the claims recite, as previously discussed, methods and systems for generating a callflow for a speech recognition process in an application, not for generating a callflow using a speech enabled development tool.

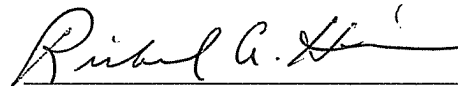
Accordingly, Wakisaka and Hanson, alone or in combination with any other reference of record, fail to disclose, suggest, or render obvious each and every element of the independent claims, as amended. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the independent claims define over the references of record. Furthermore, as the remaining claims each depend from one of the independent claims while reciting additional features, Applicants also submit that the dependent claims likewise define over the references of record.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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